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INDIA HAS A PLAN

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CONTENTS

<i>Chapter</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. INDIA HAS A PLAN ..	7
II. MORE FROM MOTHER EARTH ..	12
III. TAMING THE WATER GIANT ..	25
IV. FOREST WEALTH ..	31
V. UNDERGROUND WEALTH ..	35
VI. INDUSTRIES—BIG AND SMALL ..	37
VII. RAILWAYS, ROADS, SHIPS AND PORTS ..	49
VIII. HEALTH AND HOUSING ..	55
IX. NAI TALIM ..	60
X. HELP FOR THE NEEDY ..	64
XI. WORK FOR ALL OUR GOAL ..	67
XII. THROUGH HARD WORK TO SUCCESS ..	70

CHAPTER I

INDIA HAS A PLAN

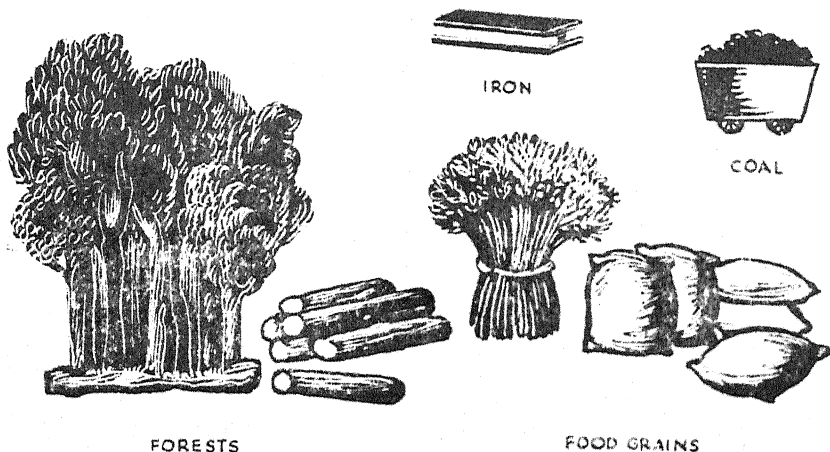
Nowadays one hears so much about the Five Year Plan. You read about it in your daily newspaper and



you hear learned people discussing it on the radio. Our Prime Minister, too, refers to the importance of the Plan in many of his speeches. Indeed, you may sometimes think that this is one more of those dull and difficult subjects that the grown-up people like

to talk about and that it does not concern you at all. But you are very much mistaken if you think so. The Five Year Plan concerns all of us who consider India our home and call ourselves Indians. And it is something, too, that is really quite simple to understand. Just as you make a plan before you build a house, so too, you must have a plan—of course, a much bigger one—to build up the country. By planning we can make the most of what we have.

Ours is a vast country. Buried under the land, we have large quantities of iron and coal, the two minerals required most for setting up large factories. Our rivers and lakes have ample supplies of water which we need for raising crops and generating electricity. Our country has a large number of men and women who are intelligent and hardworking. With all these natural gifts why are we so poor and backward then? The answer is that no



planned effort has so far been made to use them for the welfare of our people.

Planned effort has brought prosperity to many countries. We have the example of Russia before us. A weak and poor country before the first world war, Russia has now become one of the most powerful countries of the world. We, too, can make our country great by utilising our men and natural wealth according to a plan.

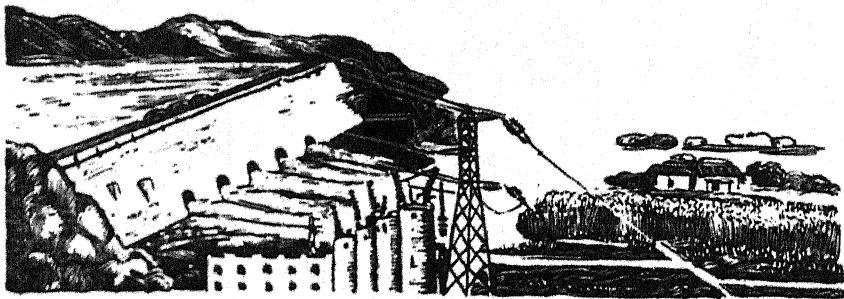
The idea of a plan to build a new India has long been in the minds of some of our leaders. But, as long as the country was under foreign rule they were unable to put their ideas into practice. Soon after the dawn of independence in 1947, our National Government, headed by Jawaharlal Nehru, decided that the nation should have a plan of work. The Planning Commission thus came into being in 1950, with the Prime Minister as Chairman. This body of experts has drawn up a Plan to put our men and resources to the best use. The Plan covers a period of

five years beginning from April 1951 and Rs. 2,069 crore will be spent on it.

The Five Year Plan aims at a better and happier life for every man, woman and child in our country. All of them must have enough food and clothing, clean and well-built houses, more schools and playgrounds and more hospitals. This means that we must have more food and clothing and goods of every kind to go round.

Also, we have to see that everyone has a fair share of all these necessities. This calls for a change in our social ideal. At present, only a few people in our country are very rich while most of the others are poor. There should be greater equality. This will naturally take a long time to achieve and the Five Year Plan is only a beginning.

How are we to attain these aims ? Obviously if we are to have more food and clothing and goods of every kind, we must make better use of our natural resources. For instance, we must raise better crops, get more timber from the forests, use more water from the rivers for irrigation and generation of power and dig more coal and iron ores from the mines. Again, we must have new factories to turn out more goods for our use. The cottage



industries in our villages must be revived to employ all those who lack work. Under the Plan, all this will be achieved.

Now, you must not imagine that India will flow with milk and honey after five years. The Plan will require very hard work and many difficulties have to be overcome. But this should not make us lose heart. Nothing worth having is easily won. We must remember, too, that the Plan is not for the good of any one section or group of people in the country, but for the benefit of all. Just as parents do not grudge sacrifices for their children, the



older amongst us should also not complain of a few hardships for the sake of the happiness of the coming generations.

Each one of us can play a part in this task of building a new India. Not everyone can be a leader or a hero but we can all have the satisfaction of having done our duty well and selflessly. Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the finest lesson that he learnt from his mother was the idea of duty well done. So in that spirit let us try to make the Plan a big success.



CHAPTER II

MORE FROM MOTHER EARTH

You have now a general idea of what the Plan is about. We will now consider it in detail and see how the country's resources will be put to use, under the Plan, for the benefit of all of us.

We will begin with agriculture which gives work to two-thirds of our countrymen. It is the source of our food and that of jute and cotton for our mills. For some time our land has not been growing enough of these things and we have been spending large sums of money to bring them from abroad. We cannot afford these expensive imports. The foremost task during the five years of the present Plan must, therefore, be to get more out of the land.

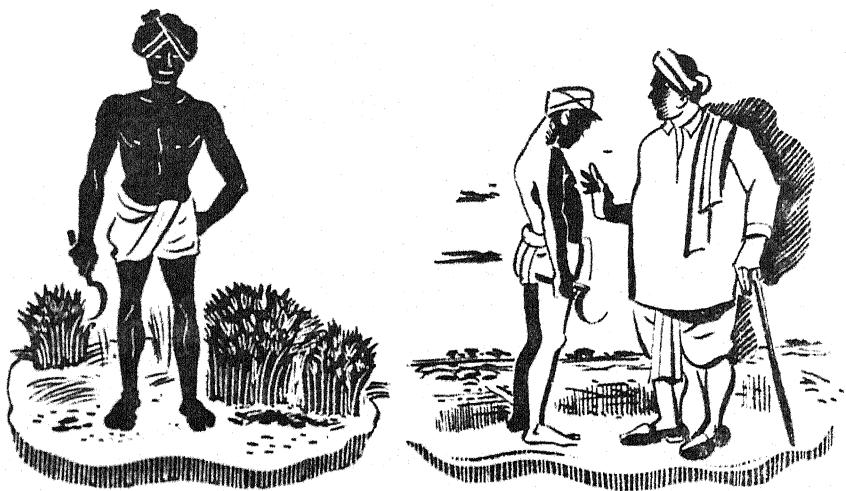
You know that we are short of food. But do you know the extent of this shortage? Our principal food crops are rice, wheat and millets, such as *bajra* and *jowar*. Experts tell us that the food shortage of the past few years has been about three million tons a year. This, at any rate, is the quantity which we have had to import. If our population keeps growing at the present rate, by 1956 the shortage would increase to 6.7 million tons. We are also deficient in commercial crops, such as cotton and jute.

In 1955-56, for instance, our textile mills will need 5.3 million bales of cotton and our jute mills 7.2 million bales of raw jute. In the year before the commencement of the Plan, that is 1950-51, we produced 2.7 million bales of cotton and 3.3 of jute. From these figures you can easily

calculate our shortage in these two important crops. We are not so badly off in regard to oilseeds, grams and pulses (*dal*), but we could do with more of all these.

So, you see how pressing is our need to get more from the land than we have been getting in the past. How is this to be obtained ?

First of all our farmers must have enough land to till. If possible, every one of them should own the land he



cultivates so that he can be encouraged to exert himself and get the best out of his land. If the tiller has a feeling that he is working for others he will not do his best. This means that the big landlords or *zamindars*, who own hundreds of acres will have to part with most of their land in favour of the actual tillers. This change is taking place already and the *zamindars* are giving up their land in return for a fixed payment from the Government.

Some people are also giving away some of their land

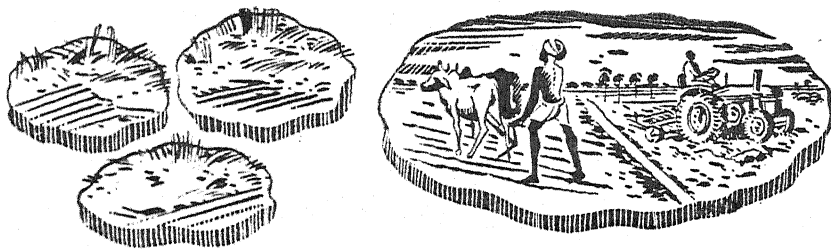
as a free gift. The idea of taking land from the well-to-do for distribution among the poor occurred to Acharya Vinoba Bhave. Although over sixty years of age, this



great reformer goes on foot from village to village and tells people that he has come to "loot them with love." Hundreds of people have thus gladly donated land for the poor and the landless. The movement has aroused great enthusiasm and thousands more are coming forward to offer land for the noble cause.

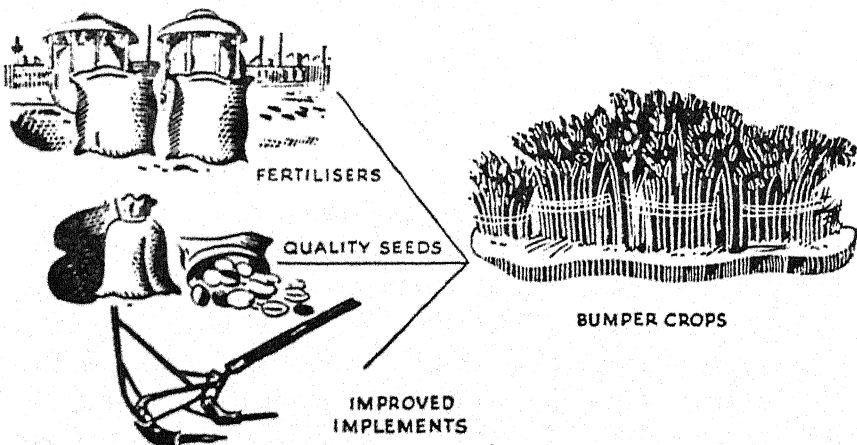
Even when the peasant owns the land and works hard, he does not always obtain the best results. The reason is that most of our peasants do not hold their land in one single block. Usually the land is divided into scattered strips, so that our villages look like jig-saw puzzles. These tiny bits of land can neither be fenced nor cultivated as they should be, with the result that the farmer gets poor crops from the soil.

This problem has arisen because when a farmer dies, his land is divided equally among all his sons. The Planning Commission has, therefore, recommended that this division should not be allowed beyond a certain



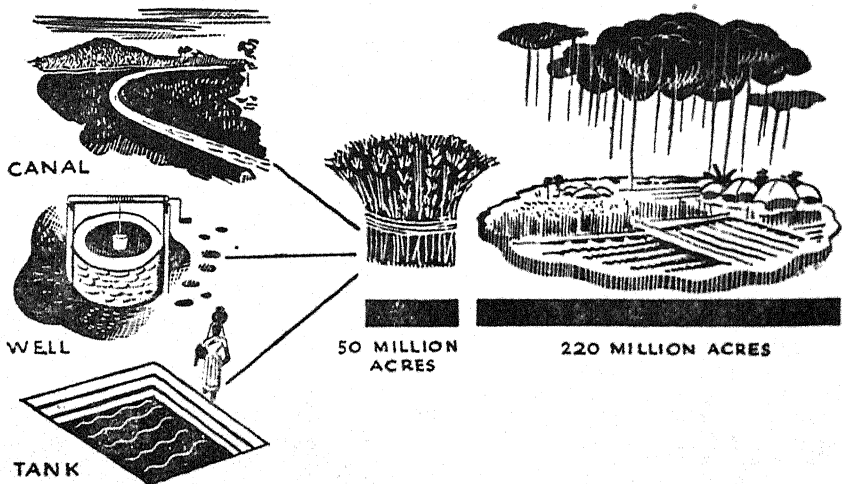
minimum. Through a fair exchange amongst themselves, the farmers are also being persuaded to consolidate their holdings. Furthermore, it is hoped that gradually the peasants will learn to pool their tiny bits of land and to cultivate them on a co-operative basis. But co-operative farming cannot be introduced everywhere immediately. In many places the farmers have already joined hands to set up co-operative farms. The Commission has provided funds for more experiments of this kind.

A fair redistribution of land and co-operative cultivation will certainly be of great value. At the same time,



our farmers must use better seeds, better ploughs and more manure to get more out of the land. At present, large parts of our country suffer from a scarcity of water. Then there are large areas which are covered with deep-rooted weeds and cannot be brought under the plough. These must also be cleared and crops grown on the reclaimed land.

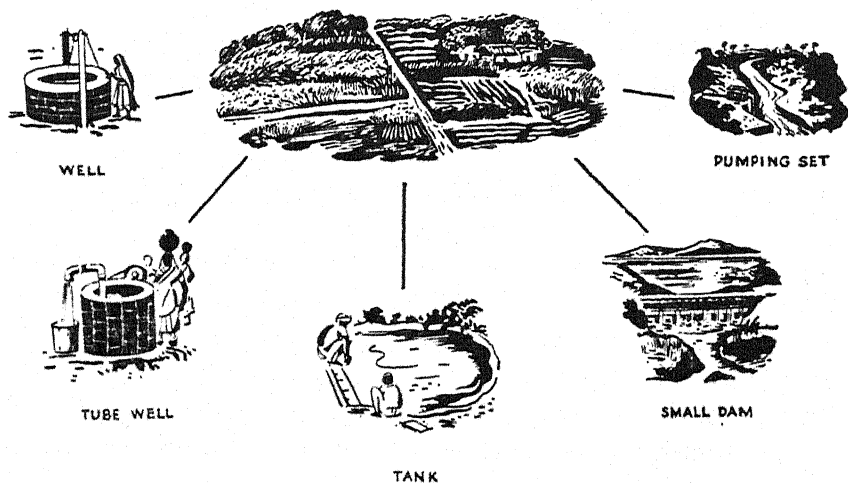
You know that nothing will grow on the land without water. We must, therefore, bring as much of the land as possible under irrigation. At present about 50 million



acres, or only a fifth of the cultivated area, is irrigated by canals, wells, tanks and tube-wells. The remaining four-fifths depends on the monsoon. If the monsoon fails, or does not break in time, the crops are ruined. We must have more canals, wells, tanks and tube-wells to reduce the farmers' dependence upon the monsoon. During the five years of the Plan, efforts will be made to irrigate

8 million additional acres by building mighty dams across some of the rivers and by canalising the water thus stored into thirsty fields. We shall return to this interesting subject later.

Besides these major irrigation schemes, the Plan provides for a large number of minor irrigation schemes. For instance, old tanks and wells will be repaired and new ones dug. Tube-wells will be sunk and water will be raised by electric pumps from a depth of 300 feet or more. At the same time, pumps to draw water



from rivers and lakes will be installed. Small dams and channels will also be constructed. All these minor schemes will irrigate 12 million acres and cost about Rs. 77 crore.

A number of big schemes for land reclamation are also included in the Plan. Large parts of our country are covered with deep-rooted weeds called *kans* and thick shrubs which make cultivation impossible. It is proposed

to clear this wild growth by means of large tractors to make the land fit for cultivation. Many schemes of this type are already in progress. They will cost Rs. 35 crore and bring 7.4 million acres under the plough.



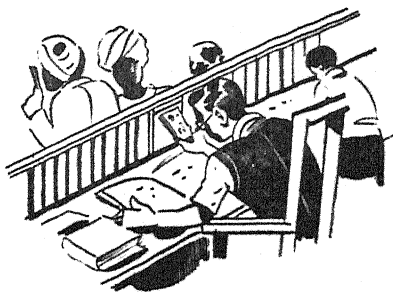
Then there are many schemes for the supply of better seeds, manures and fertilisers to the cultivator. Recently a big fertiliser factory was set up at Sindri in Bihar. It is capable of producing 1,000 tons of ammonium sulphate daily. With the help of this fertiliser our soil, weakened by centuries of cultivation and lack of nourishment, is being restored to vitality.

The peasant must also be helped to improve his cattle. He needs good strong bullocks to draw the plough and work the well as also cows that will give plenty of milk. True, we have a very large number of cattle in our country. Many of them are, however, half-starved and readily succumb to disease. In fact, we need fewer but better and stronger cattle. So the Plan includes schemes to

improve the breed of cattle and to remove old and useless animals to distant forest areas.

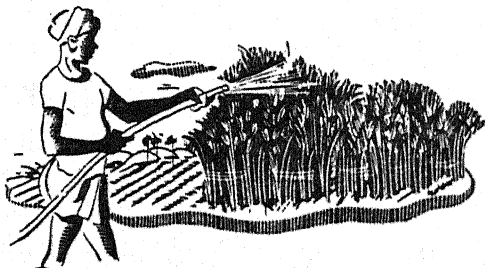


Then our cultivator is usually short of cash. He is too poor to be able to sink wells or to buy fertilisers. In the past, whenever his bullock died or his crop failed, he borrowed money from the money-lender at a very high rate of interest. Co-operative credit societies are now being formed to save him from the money-lender. These will lend the farmer money on easy terms. The co-operatives would also encourage him to save money and teach him to work with others for the common good. Within the next ten years co-operative credit societies will be set up in half of our villages.



Trained Workers to Help Farmers

The cultivator must also give up old-fashioned tools and implements. He is, however, unable to adopt improved methods of cultivation, that is scientific farming, without help and guidance. Under the Plan, therefore, a large number of people will be trained to help the villagers. They will tell the villagers how to keep their houses and villages clean and healthy, to build and repair roads,



to start cottage industries and organise co-operative societies. In short, the villagers will be encouraged to make the most of their resources by their own efforts. Already, many people are being trained to help the villagers. They are called Village Level Workers. There will be one such worker for every ten villages. It



is hoped that within five years these trained workers will serve a fourth of our villages with a third of the country's entire rural population. This organisation of village level workers is known as the National Extension Service.

A more concentrated effort of this kind is being made in areas which have been brought under the "Community Projects." You must have heard a good deal about these projects. Some of these are already in operation and will benefit 12 million people. A few more will be started soon. Each one of these covers an area of about 300 villages with a population of about 200,000.

In each project area, a concerted effort is being made to improve the life of the villagers and to increase the output of their crops. Here, the trained workers are more numerous than in other places. There is, for instance, one village level worker for every five villages in a project area, as against one for ten villages elsewhere, and the Government are giving a good deal of money for digging wells, repairing tanks, building village roads and opening schools and dispensaries. Experience gained in the project areas will be of great value in carrying forward rural welfare work in the other parts of the country. A sum of Rs. 90 crore has been set



aside in the Plan for the Community Projects and the National Extension Service.

Targets

Let us look at the results. At present, we are not getting from the land as much as we should and as much as we need. How much more are we likely to get by carrying out all these schemes? You will find the answer in the statement below. This shows the additional quantities of agricultural products which we may expect by the end of the five-year period of the Plan.

<i>Commodity</i>		<i>Extra quantity</i>	
Foodgrains		7.6	million tons
Sugar-cane (in terms of gur)		0.7	„ „
Oilseeds		0.4	„ „
Cotton		1.26	„ bales
Jute		2.09	„ „

The extra 7.6 million tons of foodgrains will be composed roughly of 4 million tons of rice, 2 million tons of wheat, 1 million tons of gram and pulses and 0.6 million tons of millets.

You may also be interested in the following figures which will give an idea of the contributions to be made by the different schemes we have mentioned to the total of 7.6 million tons of extra foodgrains.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME

TARGETS OF ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION



FOOD GRAINS

100000000

Million tons



COTTON

Million bales of 339 lb. each



JUTE

Million bales of 400 lb. each



SUGAR-CANE (gur)

Hundred thousand tons



OILSEEDS

Hundred thousand tons



through

MILLION TONS



MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS



MINOR IRRIGATION WORKS



LAND RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT



MANURES AND FERTILISERS

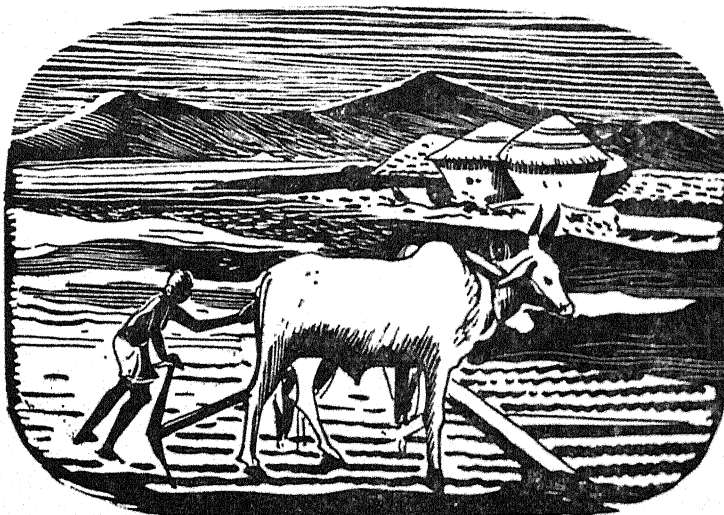


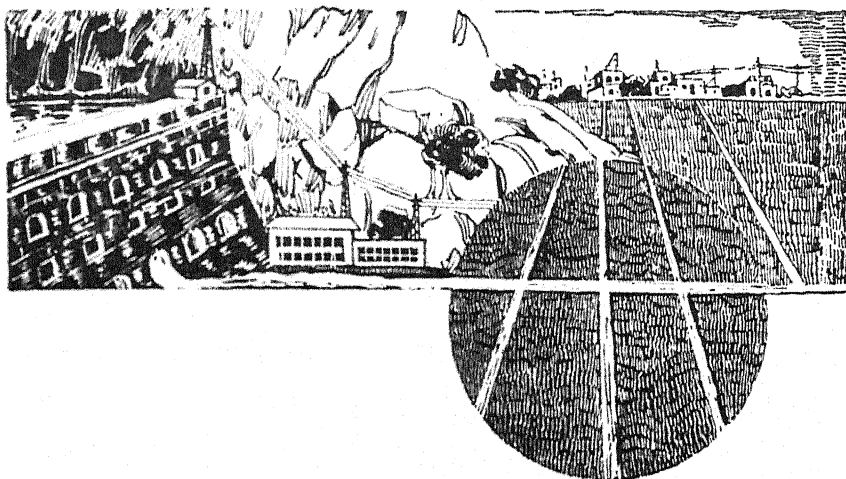
IMPROVED SEEDS



23

Major Irrigation Works	..	2.00	million tons
Minor Irrigation Works	..	2.38	" "
Land Reclamation and Development	..	1.52	" "
Manures and Fertilisers	..	0.95	" "
Improved seeds	..	0.75	" "
Total		7.60	



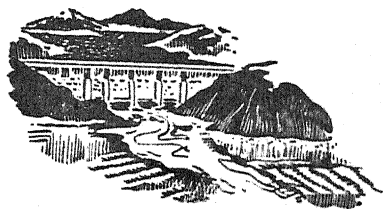
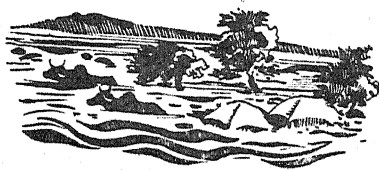


CHAPTER III

TAMING THE WATER GIANT

Irrigation by means of wells and tanks has been practised in India for thousands of years. We have already seen that by repairing the existing wells and tanks and digging new ones there will be enough water to irrigate nearly 12 million additional acres.

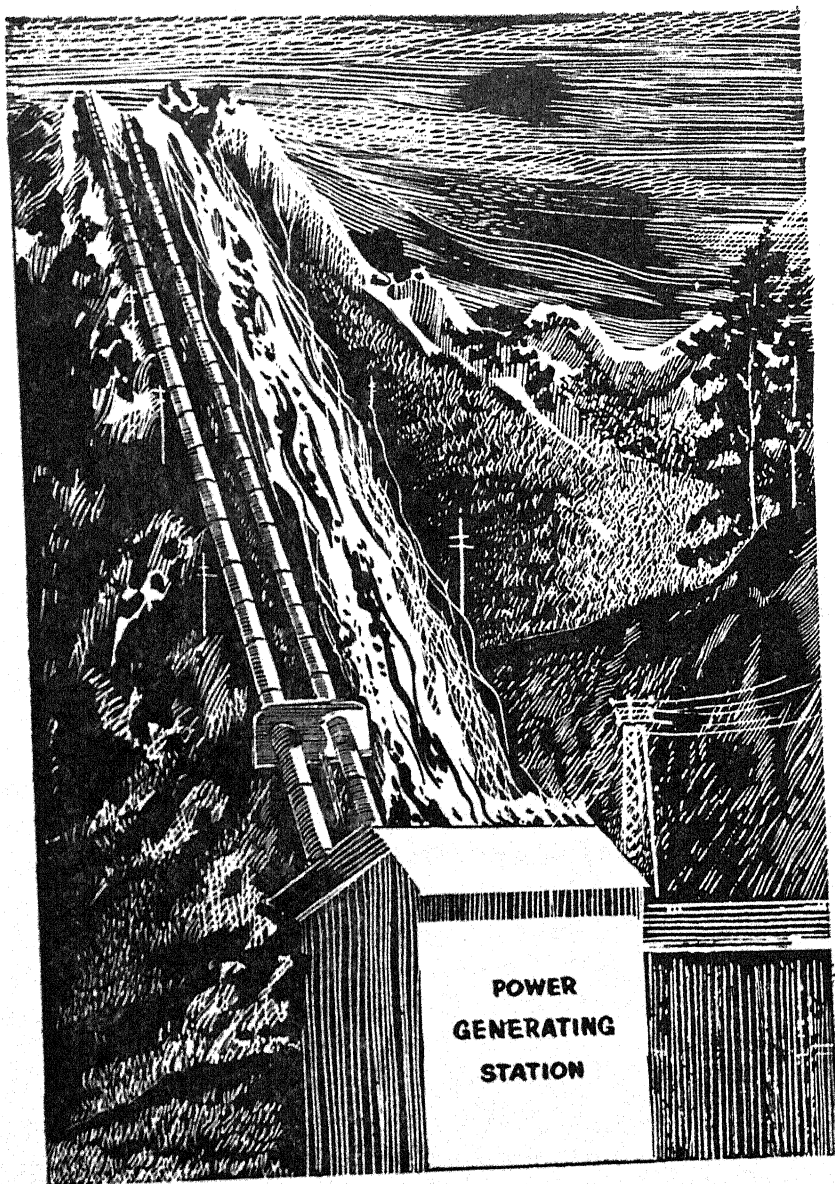
Our rivers, too, are an important source of irrigation. They have a plentiful supply of water, but the volume of water varies from season to season. In the winter they are reduced to a mere trickle, but in the rainy season most of them overflow their banks. The rivers in flood are giants in destruction. They sweep away villages, destroy crops and cattle and damage roads and railway tracks. Ultimately, the precious water flows into the sea and is wasted. Our engineers have, however, learnt to tame the rivers and to use their waters to good purpose.



Irrigation by means of inundation canals, which draw water from the rivers in flood, were not unknown in the ancient days. Remains of these old canals can still be seen in some parts of the country. Engineers now build dams or barrages across the rivers to store water in the monsoon months for irrigation during the dry season. In spite of the fact that big barrages and canals have been built by the Government, only a small proportion of the flow of our rivers is used for irrigation at present.

The water in our rivers can also be used for the generation of electric power. The first hydro-electric station in India—that is, a station for generating electricity by water-power—was erected in Mysore in 1902. Some progress has been made in the meantime, but we derive only a very small amount of hydro-electricity—500,000 kilowatts—from our streams and rivers.

Clearly, we must try to make better use of the water in our rivers. With this object the Plan has provided for a number of schemes known as multi-purpose river valley projects. This may seem a long and difficult expression, but it simply means projects for the utilisation of waters in a river valley for more than one purpose, that is, for irrigation and generation of electricity and even navigation. A sum of Rs. 266 crore has been earmarked for these projects. Some of them are already in progress. The

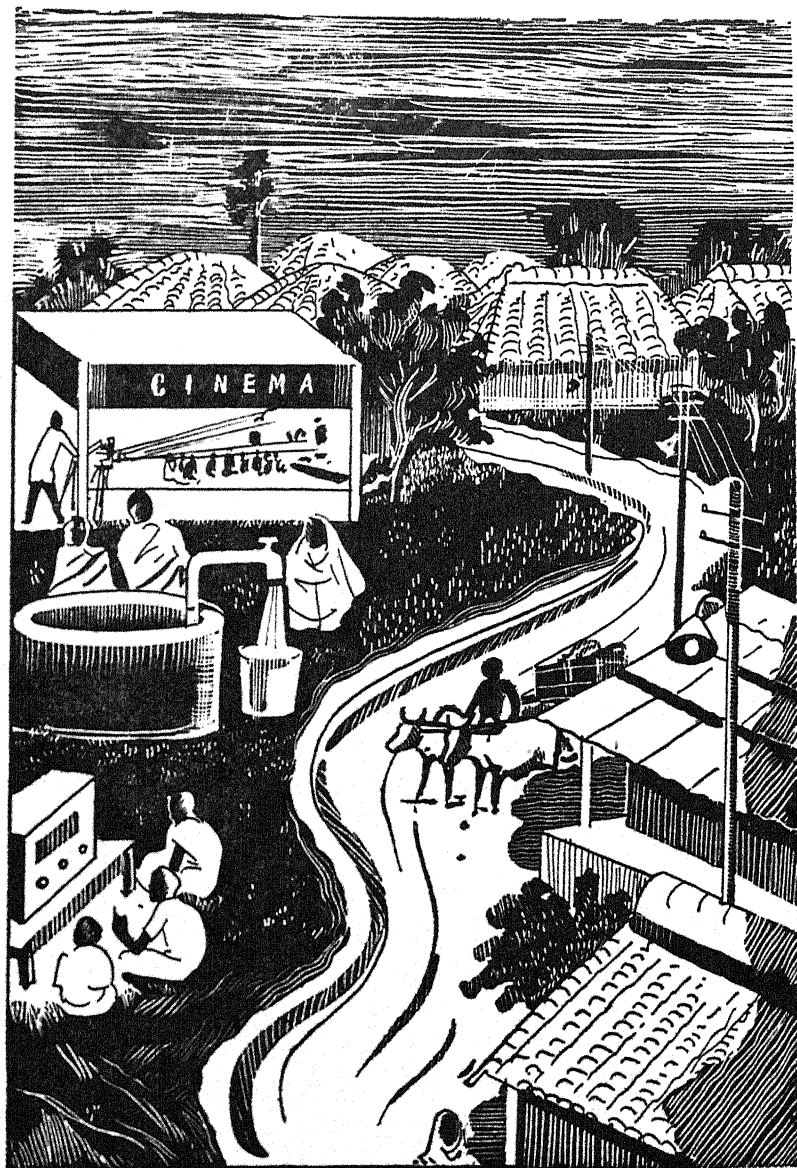


Bhakra-Nangal Project, for instance, will benefit the Punjab, PEPSU and Delhi. The Damodar Valley Project will serve Bihar and West Bengal, while the Hirakud Dam Project will bring prosperity to Orissa and the Tungabhadra Project to Andhra and Hyderabad.

These projects are huge undertakings. A detailed account of one of them will tell you what they mean in terms of labour, money and material. Let us take the Bhakra-Nangal Project in the Punjab which will put the river Sutlej to work. After flowing hundreds of miles in the Himalayan mountains, the Sutlej enters the plains of the Punjab at Rupar. About 50 miles above Rupar, at a place where the Sutlej enters a narrow mountain gorge, a dam will be built across the river. This dam will not be very long as the river is quite narrow at this place, but it will have an enormous height—not less than 680 feet! You can well imagine what a huge structure it will be. It will be nearly three times as high as the famous Qutb Minar of Delhi and will be the second highest dam in the world.

This great dam will block the river and create a huge lake along 50 miles or more of the mountain valley. The water thus stored in this great reservoir will be released for irrigation and for the generation of electric power as required. About 3,000 miles of canals and distributaries will be built to carry the water to the farmers' fields. Some 3.6 million acres of land will in this manner be irrigated in the Punjab, PEPSU and Rajasthan.

Four power-houses will also be built to generate electricity. One of these will be located at the dam itself and the other three along one of the canals. The force of



falling water will be converted into electricity at these power-stations, eventually generating a total of 400,000 kilowatts. Work on the Bhakra-Nangal Project is in full swing and in 1952 some 150,000 people worked on this huge undertaking.

Besides the multi-purpose projects which provide electricity and water for irrigation, there are other big projects which provide only one or other of these benefits. Indeed, when all the projects are completed we will have twice as much electricity in the country as at present.

The projects included in the Plan will obviously be a great boon to the people. They will transform large blocks of thirsty land into green fields. We will have more electricity for industrial use in towns and in villages. Electrification will stimulate the use of labour-saving machines, such as grain-grinders, sugar-cane crushers, cream separators and water pumps. The radio and the cinema will come into common use and will be a source of entertainment and knowledge for the villager. Through these and many other devices, electricity will eliminate the drudgery of rural communities and make life more happy and pleasant for them.



CHAPTER IV

FOREST WEALTH

Like the rivers, our forests are also an important source of natural wealth. Covering a fifth of the country's land area, they supply timber for the railways, house-building and furniture-making, fuel for cooking and the



bamboo for paper-making. Gum, lac, resin and tanning materials as well as medicinal herbs also come from the forests. Forests prevent the fertile top-soil from being washed away by fast-flowing rain water. Finally, they are ideal health resorts where people go for rest.

In the olden days our wise men and philosophers had their *ashrams* in the forests which were centres of know-

ledge and learning. Today, science has discovered many uses for the forest wealth. There is now a renewed interest in the forests and our Government maintains a Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun. Problems connected with forestry, such as the classification of different kinds of timbers and their use are studied there. Training is also given at this place to Government officers and others so that they may be able to look after our forests.

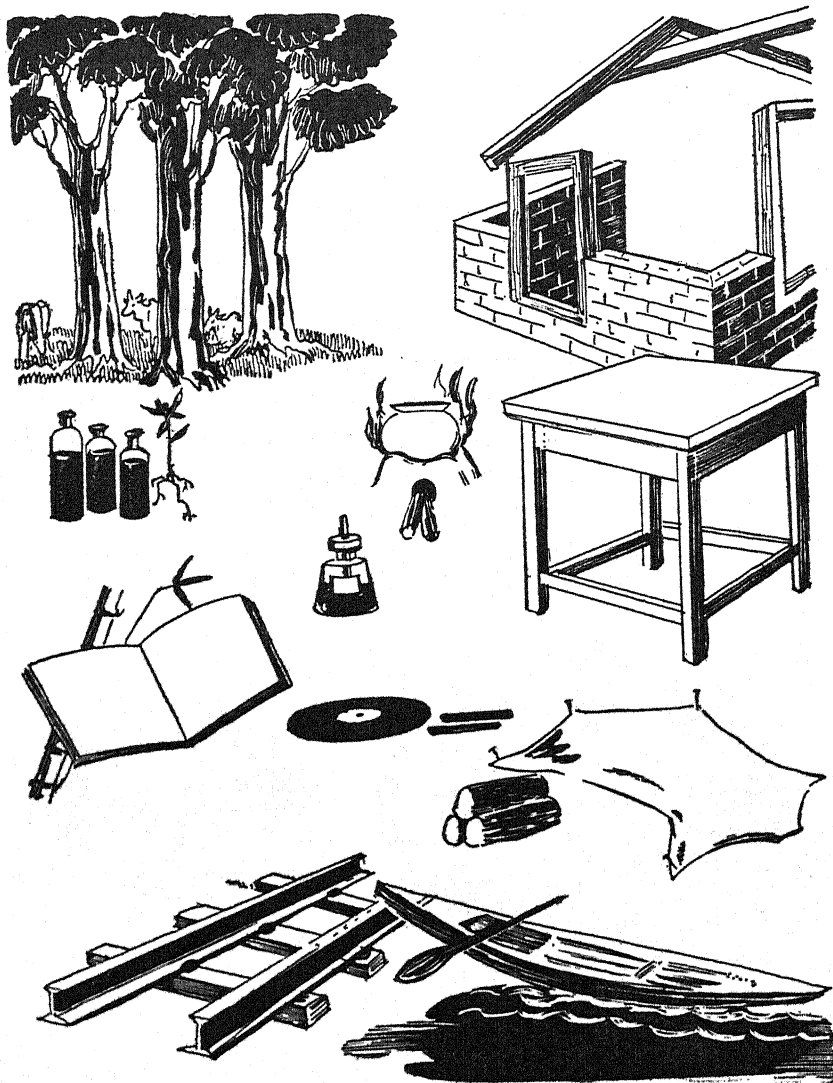
Unfortunately, forests were ruthlessly cut down in the past. The ravages of men, cattle and goats have converted green hills into barren rocks. While forests are dwindling, the demand for timber is growing. In order to make the most of our resources, we must, therefore, develop and utilise our forests in a planned way. Under the Plan it is proposed to grow trees in areas where great forests flourished at one time. You must have heard of the "Vana Mahotsava" (Tree Planting Festival) which is



observed for a week in July every year. During this week, thousands of saplings are planted throughout the country so that our denuded forests can be restored. Meanwhile, our immediate needs will have to be met from the virgin forests of the Andaman Islands.

Fisheries

The sea around our coast,



as you know, is full of fish. But as we have only country craft in which to catch them, we are not able to catch as many as we might. With mechanised boats our fishermen will be able to do much better. They will be able to travel greater distances and fish for longer hours. Under the Plan, 140 country boats are to be mechanised. This scheme will enable us to obtain more fish from the sea than we do at present.

Fish are good and nourishing food. They are relished in many parts of our country. Fish oil is prescribed by doctors for sickly children. So you see that by introducing improved methods of fishing the Plan will make a significant contribution to our food supply and health.





CHAPTER V

UNDERGROUND WEALTH

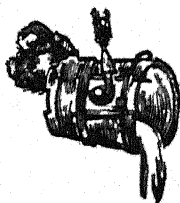
Besides land, forests and rivers, our country has a good deal of underground wealth in the form of coal, iron, manganese and other minerals. In Bihar we have large deposits of coal and iron ore, both of which are essential for setting up factories. In Travancore-Cochin we have monazite sands which yield minerals for atomic energy. We have titanium, bauxite and mica also, but we are short of several important minerals such as copper, tin, lead, zinc, nickel and above all petroleum.

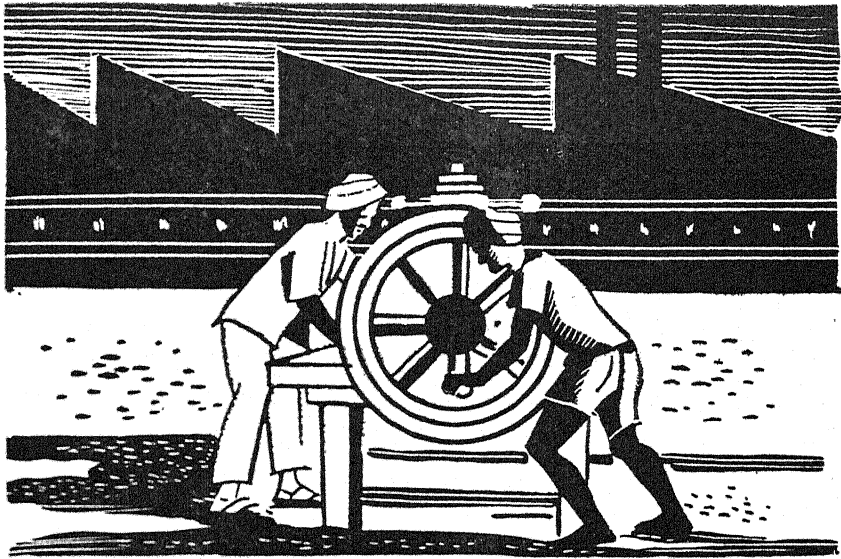
Once taken out of the bowels of the earth, minerals cannot be replenished. They are lost for ever. We must, therefore, carefully conserve our minerals. The Planning

Commission has told us how this should be done. One of the first things to do is to find out what minerals we have in our country, where and in what quantities. Then we must ensure that these are mined scientifically and nothing is wasted. If we want our superior varieties to last long, we must blend them with inferior ones. In particular, we must be very economical in the use of coking coal, for it is needed for the manufacture of iron and steel. We have only limited deposits of coking coal and we must be sparing in its use. We must do with inferior coal for railway engines and industries.

Hitherto, we have been exporting many of our minerals, such as manganese and chromite, in a raw state. As raw ores fetch low prices in foreign countries, the Planning Commission has recommended that before exporting them these should be refined and processed in our country. In this way we can get a better price for our minerals and also create work for a large number of our people.

The programme for the better utilisation of our mineral wealth will be carried out by several agencies of the Government, namely, the Geological Survey of India, the Bureau of Mines, the Fuel Research Institute and the National Laboratories.





CHAPTER VI

INDUSTRIES — BIG AND SMALL

We all need a large variety of things for our daily use. For instance, we need different kinds of textiles for clothes, motor cars and locomotives for travelling and iron and steel and cement for building houses. We must also have shoes, pens, paper, electric lamps and a hundred other articles.

Like other countries, India has industries to produce these goods. These are manufactured either in big factories with thousands of workers and huge machines or in small ones with a few workers and small machines. The former are generally known as large-scale industries

and the latter small-scale industries. Finally, we have the artisans in our villages who fashion with their hands articles of great beauty.

Let us consider the large-scale industries first. One out of every 100 people in India is employed in these. The figure is much higher in countries such as America and Britain. Thus, although many industries have come into existence during the last fifty years, our progress has not kept pace with the rapid growth of our population. In other words, we must have more factories not only to produce a larger volume of goods but also to create work for our growing population. Under the Plan, many new factories will be opened and those that already exist will be put to better use than at present.

The cotton and jute are two of our oldest industries. They supply cotton and jute textiles for use at home and abroad. As a result of the partition in 1947, we lost some of our best cotton and jute growing areas. In consequence, our mills ran short of these commodities. We are now trying to make good the shortage under the Plan, and our efforts have already borne fruit. With the increased supply of cotton more cloth is now being woven by our mills. In 1955-56, for instance, they will produce 1,872 million yards more cloth than they did in 1950-51.

The iron and steel industry is also making good progress. It is easy to see its great importance to the country. Modern buildings, factories, agricultural tools and many articles of daily use, such as nails, are made from iron and steel. In fact, it is difficult to think of modern civilisation without steel. Fortunately, we have rich deposits of iron

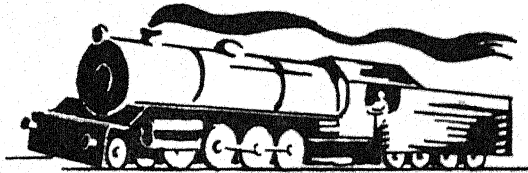


ore in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, and our iron and steel industry is one of the largest in Asia.

You must have heard of the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur, which turn out nearly 750,000 tons of steel a year. The Indian Iron and Steel Company, known as IISCO, also have big works while there is a smaller plant in Mysore. Together the three factories manufacture about a million tons of steel a year whereas our real need is more than double that figure. According to the Plan, the output of steel is to be increased by about 394,000 tons by 1955-56. To reach this goal the existing plants are being expanded and it is proposed to install a new factory which will be able to produce about 500,000 tons of steel a year.

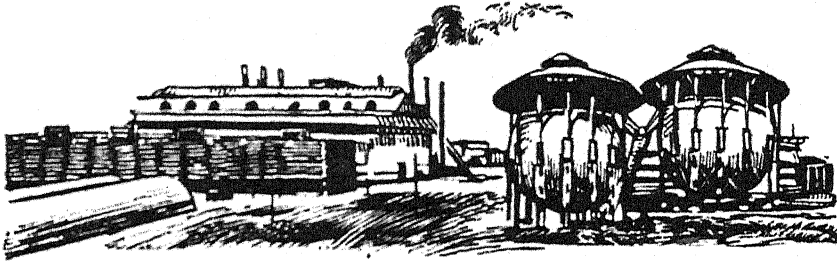
Government Takes a Hand

At present, most of our big industries are owned by private companies. For instance, the textile mills at Bombay and Ahmedabad, the Tata Iron and Steel Works and IISCO, and a majority of the cement, paper and chemical factories are in private hands. It is likely, however, that in future the Government will play a more active part in setting up new industries and in expanding those that are of vital importance to the country.



For instance, the Government have already put up a factory to produce locomotives at Chittaranjan in West

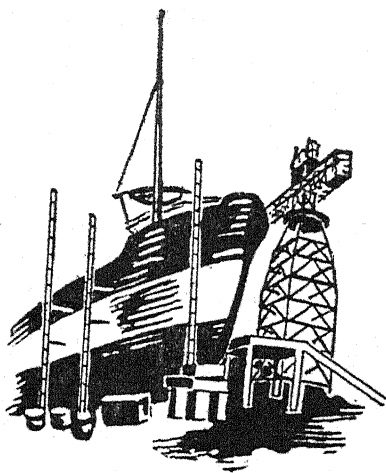
Bengal. A modern township with schools, parks and hospital has been built for those who work in this huge factory. The factory and the township cover an area of 7 square miles. By 1957, the factory will produce 120 railway engines a year.



Similarly, a large fertiliser factory has been erected at Sindri in Bihar. The enterprise is the largest of its kind in Asia and is capable of producing 1,000 tons of ammonium sulphate daily. This fertiliser factory is helping to restore vitality to our impoverished soil and is thus enabling our farmers to grow more and better crops.

Then there is the Hindustan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore, owned jointly by the Governments of India and Mysore. This factory has been established with the idea of manufacturing aircraft within the country. To begin with it has produced a simple aircraft known as HT-2 which is used for the training of pilots. Efforts are now being made to design and manufacture aircraft for the Indian Air Force and for civil aviation.

From the point of view of defence and trade the Hindustan Shipyard at Vishakapatnam on the east coast is no less important to the country. It was recently taken over by the Government from its former owners and the

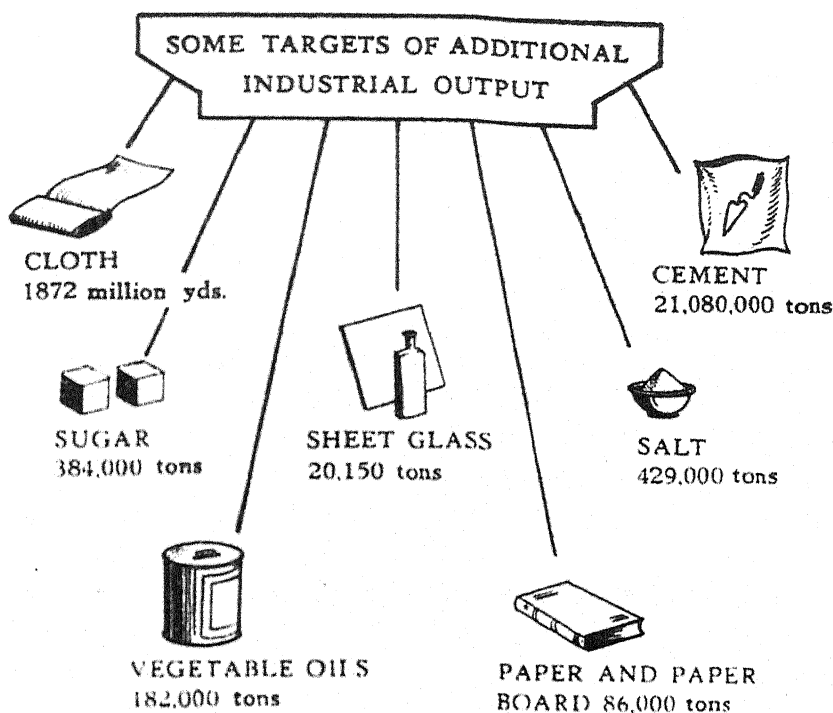


Yard is being improved and developed. It can build 5,500 to 15,000 ton ships measuring from 320 to 550 feet long. Ten ocean-going ships have already been built by the Yard and 18 to 20 more will be built by 1956.

The other factories owned by the Government produce machine tools, precision instruments, telephones, telephone cables and the "miracle drug," penicillin. In all the Government will spend Rs. 115 crore on its industrial programme.

The improvement and expansion of industries under the control of private companies will mean an outlay of more than three times this amount. Our industry will thus be able to produce more than it has done so far. The following figures show the likely increase in the output of some important commodities on the completion of the Plan :

Cloth	..	..	1,872 million yds.
Sugar	..	..	384,000 tons
Salt	..	..	429,000 „
Paper and paper-board	..	..	86,000 „
Sheet glass	..	..	20,150 „
Vegetable oils	..	..	182,000 „
Cement	..	..	21,080,000 „



Small Industries

Small-scale industries have grown rapidly in recent years. Thus, bicycle parts, electrical goods and toys are being produced.

Before the Second World War, as you probably know, small-scale industries had made great headway in Japan. By developing these industries we will be able to find work for a large number of our educated people who are now unemployed. Programmes are, therefore, being prepared for the manufacture of sports goods, agricultural implements and cycle parts in small industrial units and a sum

of Rs. 15 crore has been set aside in the Plan to assist small-scale enterprises.

Village Industries

In the olden days, villages used to be self-sufficient units with their own spinners and weavers, potters, blacksmiths, goldsmiths and washermen. With the advent of big machines many of the old village industries declined and some even died out altogether. But the goods manufactured in the mills and factories are not always as beautiful as some of our village products, such as embroideries, toys, pottery and hand-woven saris. A hand-made article has something of the personality of the individual who makes it.

These crafts can give work to thousands of our villagers. At present, most of our cultivators remain idle during the monsoon months when they are unable to work in the fields. If they were able to spin, weave or do some other work in their spare time they would earn an extra anna. Gandhiji realised the importance of village industries and initiated a movement for their revival. The development of these industries is an important feature of the Plan.

Village industries are of several kinds. There is "khadi," for instance, which we always associate with Mahatma Gandhi. The hand-spun and hand-woven cloth brings bread to many poor villagers. Then we have the hand-woven or handloom cloth which is a source of employment for about 10,000,000 people. But these industries have to face competition from mill-made cloth which



**COTTAGE
INDUSTRIES
ARE BEING
REVIVED**

is cheaper and are in need of help and protection from the Government.

Besides spinning, weaving and dyeing, the villagers make many objects of great beauty out of metal, ivory, marble, wood and clay. Paddy husking and the manufacture of gur, soap, matches, paper and ink are other industries that can give employment to the villagers and add to their earnings. The Planning Commission has drawn up a programme of development for some of these industries and a body called the Khadi and Village Industries Board has been set up to carry out the programme in collaboration with the State Governments.

How can the village industries be helped? Firstly, the village workmen must be given better tools. Secondly, they must be organised into co-operatives since no single artisan has the means to work on his own. Finally, the Government must patronise the goods produced in the villages.

It will thus be seen that large-scale and small-scale industries as well as village industries will work side by side for the good of the common man.

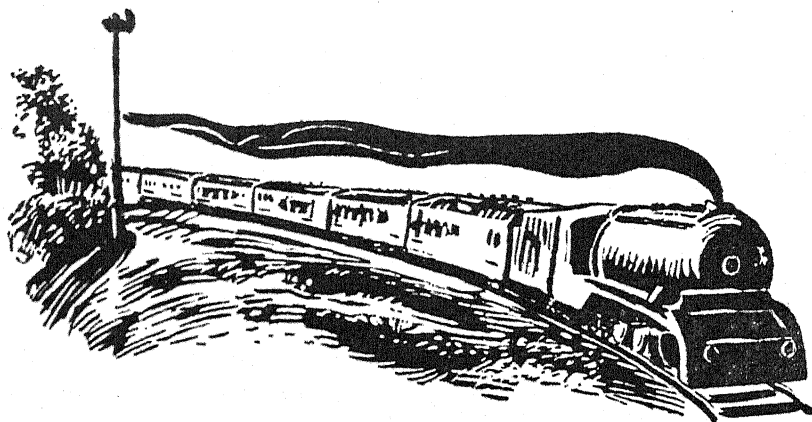
Science Helps

Science is essential for progress. Our country has given birth to many great scientists. You must have heard of C. V. Raman who won the Nobel Prize for Physics. Then there was J. C. Bose who became a world figure for his research on plant life. The pioneer in chemistry was Acharya P. C. Ray, the founder of the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Co. But, although



our scientists have done valuable work, until recently scientific knowledge was not put to any practical use. In the past few years, however, especially since independence, the Government have been doing their best to promote scientific research in the country. Twelve well-equipped national laboratories have been opened. You must have heard of the National Physical Laboratory at Delhi and of the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona. In these and other laboratories our scientists are engaged on important experiments. The knowledge thus acquired by them is helping to solve our industrial and other problems.





CHAPTER VII

RAILWAYS, ROADS, SHIPS AND PORTS

Railways

With our land and factories producing more crops and goods, we need an efficient system of transport to move these things from one place to another.

The most important means of land transport in India is the railways. Our railway network, with 34,000 miles of track, is the largest in Asia. It is owned by the Government of India and employs a million people. In 1950-51, the railways earned Rs. 265 crore.

The first railway line in India was opened in April 1853. Those of you who live in and around Delhi must have been to the Railways Centenary Exhibition. It showed the remarkable progress made by our railways during the last one hundred years.

According to the Plan, about Rs. 400 crore will be

spent on the railways during the five-year period. More than half of this sum will be used for getting new engines, coaches and wagons. About Rs. 60 crore will be spent on improving the track. Then a number of branch lines which were dismantled during the war will have to be relaid. Some 20 crores of rupees are to be used for providing more comforts for third class passengers. We are thus left with only Rs. 20 crore for new lines.

You may wonder why so much money is needed for repairs and for new carriages and locomotives. Well, the main reason is that during the war the railways were very heavily worked. Normal repairs could not be done nor could new coaches and engines be obtained. So a large proportion of our rolling stock has become old and useless. This must be replaced.

Meanwhile, new factories have sprung up in the country and we must have more engines and wagons to meet their requirements. For instance, the fertiliser factory at Sindri has to be supplied with 1,000 tons of gypsum daily from the quarries in Bikaner. This means a full train load everyday. Then there is a plan to export 2 million tons of iron ore annually. Six trains will be required daily to carry the ore from the mines to the Vishakapatnam port. From these examples you will have some idea of the heavy burden thrown on the railways by the new projects.

There is one other thing about the railway programme that you should also know. We have for some time been making railway coaches and wagons in this country. And now we make railway engines also. These are built at the new Government Locomotive Works at Chittaranjan

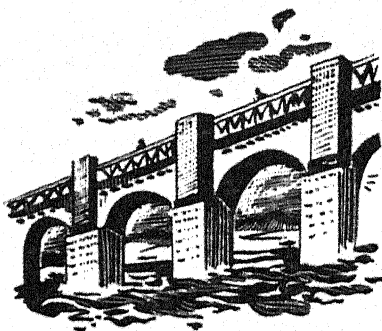
and by the Tata Locomotive and Engineering Company. During the five years of the Plan the Chittaranjan and the Tata factories are expected to turn out 268 and 170 railway engines respectively.



Roads

Every farmer wants a good road so that he can take his surplus produce to the market quickly and easily. Our aim is that every village in a well-developed agricultural area should be within five miles of a metalled road. It will be some time before we can achieve this aim, but we expect to make good progress before the five years of the present Plan are completed. A sum of Rs. 108 crore has been earmarked for new roads and bridges and for the improvement of the existing ones.

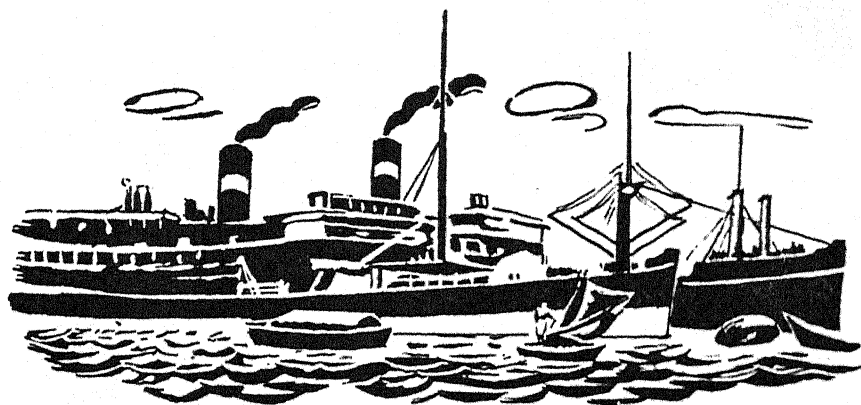
As you probably know, there are different classes of roads. Firstly, we have the National Highways which connect important cities and are looked after by the Government of India. About 2,000 miles of these highways are to be improved during the period of the Plan



and 450 miles of new highways and 43 large bridges are to be built.

Then we have the State roads which are linked with the National Highways and are maintained by the State Governments. More than 3,000 miles of new State roads are to be built.

Finally, there are the village roads. These have to be maintained and developed mainly by the villagers themselves. The Government is, however, helping those who help themselves. For instance, it is contributing towards the improvement of village roads wherever local effort is forthcoming.



Ports and Shipping

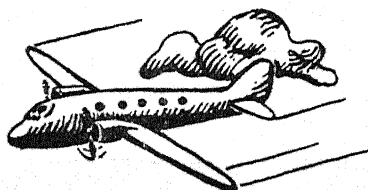
Besides the railways and roads, we must also develop our ports and add new ships to our fleet. Under the Plan, our five main ports, namely, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Cochin and Vishakapatnam will be modernised and expanded. With these improvements the ports will

be able to accommodate more and bigger ships than they have done so far. Furthermore, we need a completely new port to make good the loss of Karachi which has gone to Pakistan. Accordingly, a new port is being built at Kandla at a cost of Rs. 12 crore.

Ships from all over the world call at our principal ports, but there are only 24 Indian ships to carry our overseas trade. We want more ships for our coastal and overseas traffic. A loan of Rs. 6.5 crore will, therefore, be given to the shipping companies to enable them to acquire additional ships. Some of these will be built at the Vishakapatnam shipyard.

Civil Aviation

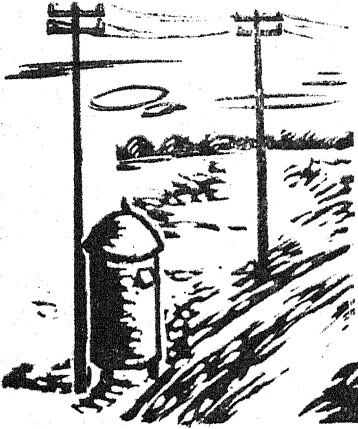
In recent years, air travel between the large cities in India as well as to distant parts of the world has become



very popular. We have many airports which receive planes from abroad and from where our own Air India International planes carry passengers and freight to the far corners of the world.

Until recently, we had many aviation companies in our country. In 1950, Indian planes carried 452,869 passengers and 80,006,755 lb. of freight. It was found, however, that there were far too many companies for the available traffic. The Government, therefore, decided to set up two corporations—one for internal services and the other for long distance international flights. The corporations were inaugurated by our Prime Minister on August 1, 1953.

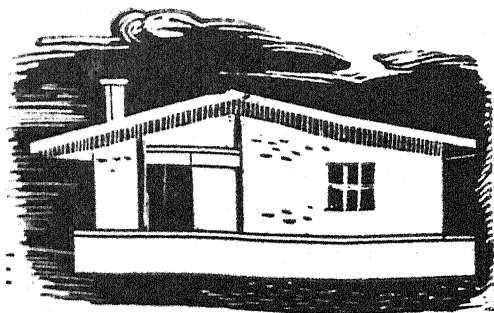
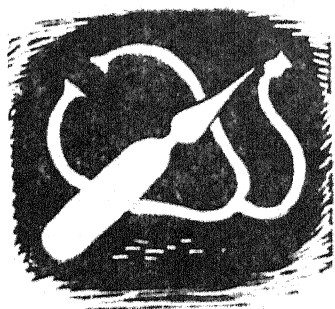
Posts and Telegraphs



India has an extensive network of post offices, but it does not cover the rural areas satisfactorily. Since independence, 11,358 new post offices have been opened in rural areas and the Plan aims at having a post office for every village with a population of 2,000 or over.

Similarly, our telegraph system is one of the largest in the world. Its 3,500 offices handle more than 25 million messages every year. During the period of the Plan, the Government proposes to extend this service to small towns and villages with a population of over 5,000.





CHAPTER VIII

HEALTH AND HOUSING

You have now read about the many fine things that will take place under the Plan. At the same time, we must realise that only a healthy people is capable of working hard and creating wealth. We must, therefore, have a strong and healthy nation with happy, healthy children.

On the whole the health of our people is poor. There are several reasons for this. Many people in this country do not receive adequate nourishment and are, therefore, not strong enough to resist disease. Also they live in insanitary houses without the supply of wholesome drinking water. Then for the size of our population, the number of doctors and nurses in our country is very small. While England has one doctor for every 1,000 persons, we have only one doctor for every 6,300 persons. Similarly, in England there is one nurse for every 300 persons while India has only one for every 43,000. What a difference! Small wonder that a great many of our children—about 40

out of every 100—die before they are 10 years old. Whereas most people live to over 60 years in England, Australia and many other countries, in India the average span of life is only 32 years.

To improve the health of the country is a very big task and this needs time and money. Let us look at some of the more important health problems. The first among these is, of course, water supply and better drainage in towns and villages. The State Governments intend to spend Rs. 23.5 crore on the provision of these facilities.



Then there is a big scheme for fighting malaria. About 100 million people in India suffer from this disease and a million people die of it every year. If you have had malaria, you would know how it weakens its victim. Indeed, in some parts of the country the land cannot be properly tilled because of the

effects of this disease on the health of the people. Malaria is carried from one person to another by mosquitoes. Thus if mosquitoes are destroyed in sufficient numbers, malaria can be controlled. It is, therefore, proposed to spend about 15 crores of rupees on organising 125 malaria control teams which will kill mosquitoes by spraying them with an insecticide known as the DDT. The people suffering from malaria will also be treated with anti-malaria drugs.

Tuberculosis is another disease which takes a terrible

toll of life in our country. Scientists have now prepared a vaccine known as the BCG, which effectively keeps the disease away. Under the Plan, mass BCG vaccination will be carried out in the country and it is hoped that



by this means the death rate from this deadly disease will be reduced, in ten to fifteen years, from 500,000 to 100,000 persons annually.

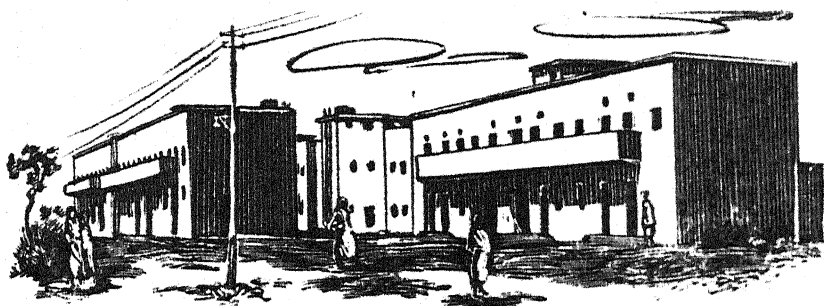
Besides these measures, arrangements are being made to train more doctors and nurses and also to open more dispensaries, especially in the villages. Some of these are mobile dispensaries which move from village to village to bring relief to the sick.

The health programme also includes other schemes. For instance, we shall try to manufacture more drugs and medicines in our own country instead of importing them. We also hope to use on a large-scale old cures and home-brewed medicines which were discovered in India in ancient times. In fact, for some diseases they are cheaper and more effective than modern medicines.

Housing

Housing, as you know, is closely connected with health. If people live in small, crowded and dingy houses without proper ventilation and sanitation, disease and suffering are in store for them. Today, our cities are overcrowded as never before. During the last war con-

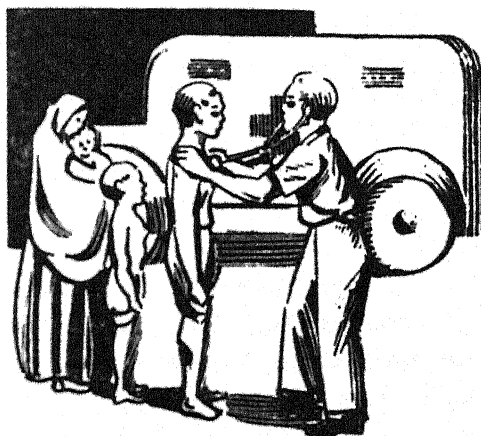
gestion in the cities grew as more and more people left their villages and moved into the cities in search of work in the factories. A good number of these never went back to their villages and thus created the housing problem in towns. To make matters worse, after the partition thousands of displaced people came over to India from Pakistan. A great many of them had been used to city life and, therefore, wanted to settle down in the cities in India.



To provide homes for these persons new townships, like Nilokheri and Faridabad, as well as over 150,000 houses have been built by the Government. Many more houses are required and the Government are encouraging house-building. For instance, the Planning Commission has recommended that local bodies and co-operative societies of industrial workers should be given loans and grants to build houses and a sum of 38.5 crores of rupees has thus been earmarked by the Central Government for this purpose.

The housing problem is not so acute in the villages. The villager is used to building his own house. He can, however, be helped to build better houses with proper

sanitation and ventilation. Some improvements, such as chimneys for kitchens and roofs of improved design, can be introduced in village houses without extra cost. Meanwhile, the State Governments are building model houses in community project areas and elsewhere.



CHAPTER IX

NAI TALIM

You must have read about Emperor Akbar, who was one of the greatest rulers of India. He won famous battles, strengthened Mughal rule, put up magnificent buildings and respected all religions equally. He had a deep understanding of his fellow beings and a wide variety of interests. Although he could neither read nor write, he was, in fact, one of the best educated men in his time.

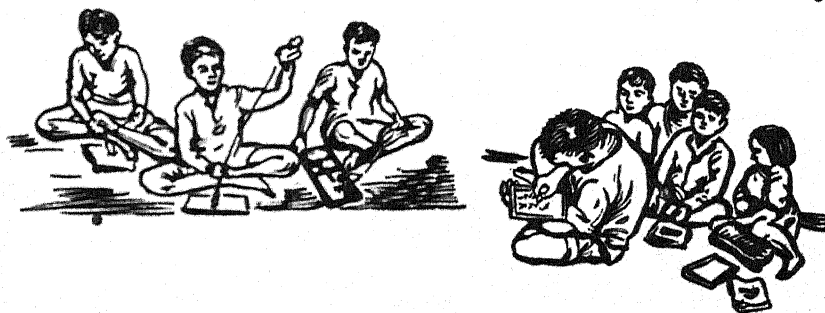
You will thus see that besides enabling people to read and write, education must also foster in them such qualities as courage, character, the power of observation and the ability to co-operate with others in the performance of great tasks. In the words of Gandhiji, education should aim at "all round drawing out of the best in child and man—body, mind and spirit !"

The present system of education was devised by the British largely to meet their administrative needs and it has outlived its usefulness. Thus, while book knowledge is given undue importance, boys and girls are not trained to stand on their own feet when they leave school. The educational system must, therefore, be reformed to meet the requirements of independent India.

Gandhiji visualised a new system of education which he called the *Nai Talim*. He felt that every man should take pride in his work and while receiving education he must learn to earn his bread. His system of education thus centres round a craft, such as weaving, spinning, carpentry, leather-work and cardboard-work. This, he thought,

would make the child physically fit and develop in him the capacity to work for himself as well as for society. His ideas have been successfully tried out at the basic school in Sevagram and at other institutions in the country.

This system of "learning by doing" is now popularly known as basic education and has been recommended by



the Planning Commission for adoption in our primary schools. New primary schools will, therefore, be of the basic type. Instruction in the secondary schools will also approximate to the basic pattern.

We require a large number of trained teachers. The training of these teachers is thus an essential feature of the educational programme. It is by no means an easy task. It will require a good deal of time, effort and money for its fulfilment.

Besides reforming the educational system, we must also have more educational facilities. In our country where people have the right to choose their government, every one should also have the right to be educated. At present only a sixth of our population is able to read and write. The figure is much higher in many other countries.



Our Constitution requires that by 1960 education should become compulsory for all children up to the age of 14. Clearly, we must have more primary and secondary schools, colleges and universities. Accordingly, provision has been made in the Plan for more educational institutions, particularly in the rural areas.

There is also provision for adult education. The aim of adult or social education is, however, not merely to



make people literate but also to enable them to live better. An attempt is, therefore, being made to interest them in such problems as health, cleanliness and co-operation.

Finally, let us turn to discipline and self-help for young people. They are being encouraged to take part in

the scout movement and in the National Cadet Corps. They are also participating in useful activities such as repairing roads and clearing up slums. Boys from many schools and colleges are already working in the villages. There is, in fact, a proposal that all students between the ages of 18 and 21 should devote between six months to one year to compulsory manual labour. A beginning is being made on a voluntary basis.



CHAPTER X

HELP FOR THE NEEDY

Gandhiji said that India should have a society in which there would be neither rich nor poor people. That is also the aim of our Constitution. The Plan thus includes measures designed to help the backward, the needy, the poor and the physically handicapped.

A large number of people need and deserve special attention in our country. Among them are 51 million Harijans. In the past these people had few opportunities for education. They could not, therefore, compete with others on equal terms. The result is that most of them have remained poor and backward. A sum of Rs. 14 crore is to be spent by the Centre and the States on better housing and greater educational opportunities for them. The number of Harijan boys receiving free education and technical training is increasing every year. More and more of them are being employed in Government service, in trade and in industry.

Then we have our 18 million *adivasis* or members of the scheduled tribes. They are among the most ancient inhabitants of India and they live in the remote forest regions of Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Assam. Their mode of life has remained well-nigh unchanged over the past few centuries.

For the uplift of these people roads are being built and they are being encouraged to adopt improved agricul-



tural practices. Malaria, leprosy and skin diseases take a heavy toll among these people. Besides fighting them, the water supply is also being improved in the areas

where they live. Schools are also being opened for the education of their children.

Social Welfare

Those who are blind, deaf, dumb or lame and have no homes must be looked after by the society. Social workers will look after them and train them in some craft. By learning to work for their livelihood, they would thus regain their self-respect. They would begin to feel that they are useful members of the community and not outside it. Assistance is being given to all institutions which help disabled persons to lead useful and happy lives.

Little children, whose parents are too poor to take care of them, must also be a special concern of social workers. Those of you who live with your loving parents in comfortable homes will surely think of those who are less happily placed and will try to do your bit to brighten their lives.

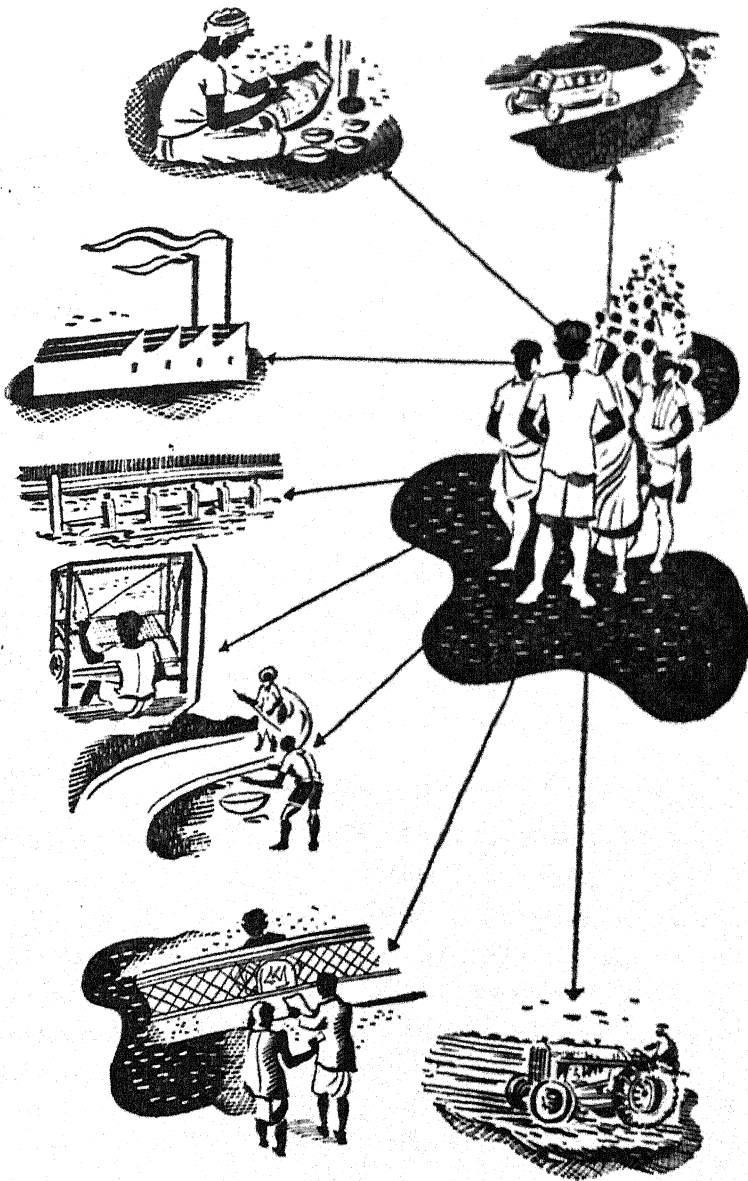
There are various ways in which it is possible to help these children. For instance, free milk can be supplied to them at schools. Play centres and nurseries called creches, can be provided for those whose mothers work for their living. Then there are children who are exceptionally slow at learning. If they are carefully looked after and treated gently and with patience, these children will very often improve a great deal and gradually behave like normal children. All those institutions which take care of children and train them to be useful citizens are also to receive assistance from the Government.

WORK FOR ALL OUR GOAL

When there is so much work to be done for building a new India, every grown-up individual ought to be fully employed. For want of planning, however, a large number of our people have hitherto had little to do. A good deal of human energy and talent has thus been wasted. Unemployment breeds depression, a feeling of insecurity and loss of self-confidence.

The rapid growth of our population makes progress difficult. It means, in short, that the number of people who have no work is on the increase. In the last fifty years, our population has risen by 52 per cent. The output of our fields and factories has not, however, grown in the same proportion. If the population increases faster than we can develop our agriculture, industries, mines and transport, then it would become difficult to find enough work—and enough food and clothing—for everybody. It is, therefore, desirable to reduce the growth of our population, but this will obviously take time.

One of the objects of the Plan is to create work for people who need it. The construction of dams, wells and roads, the reclamation of land and the growth of village industries and handicrafts will undoubtedly provide a good deal of employment. In the urban areas additional employment will be created by setting up new factories and by expanding the existing ones. Increased banking and transport facilities will also provide work for many. Indeed, as the Plan progresses and our resources are



developed, fresh opportunities of employment will go on being created, and a time may eventually come when there will be more jobs than there are people who can take them.



THROUGH HARD WORK TO SUCCESS

By this time you must know what the Plan is about; what it seeks to achieve in the fields of agriculture, industry, power generation and irrigation, transport and health. "But," you will exclaim, "where is the money for all this to come from? You have been talking in terms of lakhs and crores of rupees; and yet you have been saying all along that the people of this country are very poor." Here is what the Planning Commission has to say in this matter.

The Plan will cost the Central and State Governments Rs. 2,069 crore in five years. Of this amount about Rs. 738 crore will be met from the ordinary revenues of the Central and State Governments, that is, the taxes we pay to the Government and its earnings from commercial enterprises like the railways. Loans raised by the Central and State Governments are expected to bring in Rs. 520 crore. Then we have what are called the "sterling balances," that is, the amount Great Britain owes us on account of goods and services supplied during the war, but not paid for at the time. Against these balances we can draw up to another Rs. 290 crore. In addition, in the past two years we have received assistance from foreign countries amounting to Rs. 156 crore. These sums amount in all to Rs. 1,704 crore and leave a balance of Rs. 365 crore still to be found. To make up this we hope that more assistance will be forthcoming from foreign countries.



failing which we shall be obliged to impose further taxes and raise more loans.

Are we then to lie back and say, "At last, everything is all right; all our problems are solved?" Certainly not, our problems are by no means solved. We are only just beginning to tackle them. Do things always happen as we plan them or wish them to be? If they did, then the world would be a different and a much easier place to live in, but duller too, for we would all become fat and lazy if we did not have to work hard for what we wanted to achieve. In order to carry out the present Plan, the people of India will have to work hard. They must also be prepared to face disappointments and failures, for as a Scottish poet says, "the best laid plans of mice and men do go off awry!" We cannot expect to be completely successful at the first attempt. But we should not feel depressed nor feel that the effort is not worth making. Did not people laugh at Mahatma Gandhi when he first talked of attaining swaraj for the 350 million Indians?

Courage and faith can achieve much. The Plan is a first step towards a splendid goal—the establishment of a new social order, free from exploitation, poverty, unemployment and injustice. It is an ideal worth striving for. "The Plan is a big one," says our Prime Minister, "embracing innumerable activities in the country. But far bigger is the vision which draws us forward, a vision inspired by courage and hope and reasoned optimism. Let us have faith in our country and ourselves."